THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 27th August 1955.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Applications for credit made by co-operative societies.

[a] * 357 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many applications for credit made by co-operative societies in each district during the last two years are still pending; and

(*b*) the reasons for the delay in disposing of these applications?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (*a*) Out of 319 loan applications as on 30th June 1955, 182 are still pending, out of which 68 are in North Arcot, 3 in South Arcot, 55 in Chingleput, 5 in Salem, 32 in Tanjore, 3 in Madurai, 1 in Ramanathapuram and 15 in Tirunelveli.

" (*b*) the delay is due to the following factors in the main :—

(1) Want of additional particulars from the borrowing societies.

(2) Pendency of overdues.

(3) Non-rectification of defects pointed out by the Central Banks."

Working of mass B.C.G. Vaccination.

* 366 *Q.*—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether there has been any decrease in the number of persons vaccinated in the districts where mass B.C.G. Vaccination has been introduced?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" Yes, Sir, from the middle of June onwards."

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR:—" There has been a lot of discussion about the B.C.G. What do the letters 'B.C.G.' stand for? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" 'B' stands for Bacillus. 'C' and 'G' represent the names of the two scientists Calmette and Guerin."

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[a] Question postponed from the list of questions for the 25th August 1955.

[27th August 1955

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" May I know how the figures work before the controversy was started and after the controversy in the districts? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is only after the controversy was started, the response from the people has been affected. There has been a fall in the number of people coming for testing as well as for vaccination."

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—" May I know the percentage, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It varies from district to district. There has been a progressive fall."

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI :—" In view of the statement made the other day, do the Government keep a record of the tuberculin-tested people and see that the tuberculin-tested people do not avoid the B.C.G. inoculation? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, this vaccination is entirely voluntary."

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI :—" In view of the fact that one woh is tuberculin tested is exposed to virulent infection, do the Government keep a record of those who were tuberculin tested and compel them to get B.C.G. inoculated? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no compulsion, Sir."

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI :—" Rajaji, a very great man, is opposed to B.C.G. vaccination and the Government are convinced that the vaccination is good and in view of that fact, Sir, what special steps have the Government taken to fight that propaganda against B.C.G.? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no question of fight, Sir. The Government have published a pamphlet. As I said the other day, Dr. Ranganathan, Director of the B.C.G. Institute, Guindy, spoke on this subject under the auspices of the City Branch of the Indian Medical Association. The other day this Association gave a party in honour of Dr. Benjamin. He also spoke about B.C.G. to the members of the medical profession at that party, Sir."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" May I know, Sir, how Rajaji was able to get so much of expert knowledge on this B.C.G. within so short a time? "

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" You must ask Rajaji."

THE HON. SRI A B. SHETTY :—" In this B.C.G. drama that is being now enacted, Sir, there is something like a playback and an actor on the stage, as in film shows."

27th August 1955]

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI :—" What I mean to say is this. A big man is opposed to that. Whether he is right or wrong, that is a different question. But the World Health Organization feels that B.C.G. is good, and it has been in practice for the last 30 years. Even an advanced country like England has adopted it. But, this agitation is going on here. May I know what special steps have the Government taken to see our people do not fear that vaccination? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no sort of opposition, Sir, in other States of India. Everywhere else the campaign is going on quite smoothly and there is good response. The controversy arose in this State after Rajaji began his anti-B.C.G. campaign. I hope, Sir, that in course of time, the doubts and fears of the people will be allayed and good sense will prevail."

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR :—" If it is not a question of fight with the big man, Sir, is it a question of flight—running away from him? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The hon. Member wants to provoke me to say something."

Location of the proposed new Medical College.

* 367 *Q.*—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state with reference to the answer to supplementary question to Legislative Council Question No. 72 answered on 21st December 1954, whether the Government of Madras have come to any decision regarding the place where the new Medical College is to be located?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No, Sir."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" May I know whether the Government have come to any decision regarding the location of the proposed Medical College? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Government have not yet come to any decision. Establishing a college means a big investment of about a crore of rupees as non-recurring expenditure. We have included in the Second Five-Year Plan schemes for opening two colleges to produce 150 medical graduates per year and the estimated cost is Rs. 166 lakhs. But, what will happen to the scheme when it is finalised at Delhi, I cannot say. The Central Government will examine the needs of each State with regard to medical education and approve of the scheme of starting colleges only where they think it is necessary."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" What had happened to the report submitted by the Committee headed by our Leader of the Opposition and wherein our Chairman was also a member? "